

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-5 and 8 are amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 4-5 and 8 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Office Action to overcome the objection to the claims. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-10 will remain pending in the patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Love *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,363,412) (hereinafter “Love”), in view of Dent *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,567,475) (hereinafter “Dent”) and further in view of Wallerius *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,192,038) (hereinafter “Wallerius”). Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Love in view of Dent, Wallerius, and further in view of LaRosa *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,323,421) (hereinafter “LaRosa”). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections because Dent is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102 and Love, Wallerius and LaRosa, taken individually or in combination, fail to provide all the features recited by the rejected claims.

Applicant notes that the priority date of the present application is May 25, 1998. A copy of a certified English translation of the Finnish priority document is enclosed herewith. Therefore, the perfected priority date of the present application antedates the filing date of the Dent reference, which is December 29, 1998. As a result, Dent cannot be prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102. Additionally, Love, Wallerius and LaRosa do not provide all the rejected claims’ features. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The rejections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

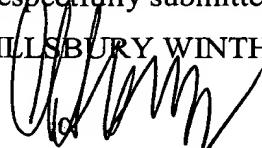
If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

HUTTUNEN -- 09/700,951
Client/Matter: 060258-0274039

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Finnish Priority Document